

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02
SS-15 ICA-11 EB-08 OMB-01 TRSE-00 /090 W
-----005741 210824Z /20

P R 201046Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
TO /SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1454
INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DOHA
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY LONDON

C O N F I D E N T I A L KUWAIT 4144

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: EFIN, EAID, EG, US
SUBJECT: ARAB AID TO EGYPT

REF: (A) STATE 181149, (B) KUWAIT 4063 (NOTAL), (C)
KUWAIT 3788, (D) CAIRO 16944 (NOTAL)

1. WE APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT'S PROMPT REPLY TO OUR REQUEST FOR MORE INFORMATION ON US AID TO EGYPT. WHILE WE ALSO APPRECIATE OFFER TO SEND OFFICER FROM CAIRO TO BRIEF SHEMALI AND OTHERS ON US AID TO EGYPT, SHEMALI'S REQUEST FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ON US AID TO EGYPT DOES NOT REPRESENT, BY ITSELF, IMPORTANT OPPORTUNITY TO INITIATE THE TECHNICAL LEVEL RELATIONSHIP DESCRIBED STATE REFTTEL. SHEMALI'S REQUEST WAS LOW-KEY, MADE IN PASSING, AND INDIVIDUAL, RATHER THAN INSTITUTIONAL. IT INDEED AFFORDS US OPPORTUNITY TO FURTHER EDUCATE A FINANCE MINISTRY OFFICIAL ABOUT EGYPT'S ASSISTANCE NEEDS, BUT IT FALLS WELL SHORT OF AN INVITATION TO CONSULTATIONS.

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2. WHEN INFORMATION BEING POUCHED TO EMBASSY IS IN HAND, WE WILL PROVIDE IT TO SHEMALI AND TO CONTACTS IN THE KFAED, AND INQUIRE WHETHER THEY WOULD WELCOME DETAILED DISCUSSIONS AND BRIEFING BY US OFFICIALS CLOSE TO THE AID SCENE IN CAIRO. IF THE RESPONSE IS ENTHUSIASTIC WE WILL PROMPTLY INFORM CAIRO AND THE DEPARTMENT.

3. SHEMALI WORKS FOR MINFIN ATEEQI WHO, DESPITE HIS WELL KNOWN VIEWS ON AID TO EGYPT, HAS PLAYED A KEY ROLE IN PROVISION OF BILLIONS OF DOLLARS OF SUCH AID OVER THE YEARS. THE LAST THING WE SHOULD WISH TO ACCOMPLISH IS TO FURTHER IRRITATE ATEEQI, WHO RESENTS OUR SPEAKING FOR EGYPT WHEN EGYPT IS UNWILLING TO SPEAK FOR ITSELF. UNLESS WE FIND THAT TECHNICAL LEVEL KUWAITIS IN FACT WOULD WELCOME DISCUSSIONS WITH USG OFFICIALS KNOWLEDGEABLE ABOUT OUR AID PROGRAM IN EGYPT, SENDING SUCH OFFICIALS COULD VERY WELL PROVE COUNTERPRODUCTIVE IN ACHIEVING OUR OBJECTIVES. SUTHERLAND

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